

Esther the Wonder Pig

By Steve Jenkins, Derek Walter, and Caprice Crane

Illustrated by Cori Doerrfield



Ideas for enjoying the book at home

Created by Pam Spycher

About the Book:

Once upon a time, dads Steve and Derek adopted a “mini” pig named Esther. They fell in love with their new baby right away, but they had no idea that she would get so big!

Esther quickly grew too large for her bed and their small apartment. She got into everything and made lots of messes. But her dads still loved her. She just kept getting bigger!

Find out what Esther’s parents do to solve this problem and make sure Esther feels safe and loved forever.

This is a true story that children will love to read. They can find out more about Esther at her website: <https://www.estherthewonderpig.com>

Jump into Joyful Reading!

Invite your child to share their thinking and ask questions as you enjoy the book together. The main thing is to have fun and enjoy one another’s company as you read together. Here are some things you can say and do to create a joyful reading experience for your child.



Before Reading:

- What do you notice about the cover?
- What do you think about the title?
- What do you think we will discover in this book?



While Reading:

- What do you notice in the picture?
- What do you think about what we just read?
- What are you curious about now?



After Reading:



- What did you think about the book?
- How did it make you feel?
- What was your favorite part?
- What are some good things you can say about yourself?

Turn the page over for
creative expression ideas!



Creative Expression Activities

After you read the book, unleash your imagination and creativity! Use the ideas below to choose your own adventure. What other ideas did the book inspire your amazing mind to think of?

 <h2>Poetry</h2> <p>Write a poem about Esther using the letters in her name to start each line. To help you get started, here are some things Esther likes to do: eating, sleeping, walking, bathing, playing, snuggling, foraging, exploring.</p> <p>E S T H E R</p> <p>You can write the poem together with an adult or on your own. Include a picture with your poem to make it extra special!</p>	 <h2>Visual and Digital Arts</h2> <p>Visit Esther's website. https://www.estherthewonderpig.com</p> <p>Explore what Esther looks like, what she likes to do, who her family is, and where she lives.</p> <p>Look at the illustrations in the book for ideas.</p> <p>Then, draw, paint, or collage a beautiful picture of Esther. Maybe you want to put yourself in your creation!</p>	 <h2>Kindness and Community</h2> <p>Think about an animal in your life. Maybe you have a pet dog or cat or goldfish. Or, maybe someone in your family or one of your neighbors has an animal. Or, maybe you want to think about Esther.</p> <p>Can you think of one kind thing you could do that would make that animal's life happier and more peaceful?</p> <p>How do you think the animal will feel after you do the kind thing?</p> <p>How will you feel?</p> <p>After you do the kind thing, talk with someone about how it made you feel to be kind to an animal.</p>
 <h2>Mindfulness and Self-Awareness</h2> <p>Sit comfortably. Place your hands over your heart. You can close your eyes, if you want to. Take a few deep breaths.</p> <p>Think about a person or an animal you love and who loves you.</p> <p>Notice how you feel when you think about this person or animal.</p> <p>Send love and a kind wish their way. What would make them feel good?</p> <p>Think about another person or animal you love and notice how you feel. Then, send them love and a kind wish.</p> <p>Open your eyes and take a few deep breaths. Notice how you feel.</p>	 <h2>Movement, Music, and Drama</h2> <p>There are lots of animals in this book: Esther (a pig), her siblings (two dogs and two cats), and lots of farm animals (chickens, ducks, and goats).</p> <p>Pretend you are one of these animals.</p> <p>How would you move?</p> <p>What would you say?</p> <p>What would you do?</p> <p>Then, pretend you are another animal.</p> <p>What does your body feel like when you are pretending to be animals?</p>	 <h2>Literacy and Oracy</h2> <p>Retelling stories and making up your own stories is fun! Here are a couple of ideas you can try after reading this book:</p> <p>Retell Esther's story with someone. Use the illustrations to act out the story as you retell it together. Make sure to use your acting skills as you say what the characters are saying or what they might be thinking.</p> <p>Create your own Esther story. What do you think Esther will do next in her new home? Will she go on an adventure? Where to? You can tell your story to an adult, and they can write it down for you. Then, you can draw the pictures. Or, you can do the writing yourself. Have fun and be creative telling your own story!</p>